

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDA-12 AGRE-00 AID-05
CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00
DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 SOE-02 DOE-11 FMC-01 TRSE-00
H-01 INR-07 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 NSF-01 OES-07 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /137 W
-----007584 132104Z /62

R 131432Z JAN 78

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5064

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 0217

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIS, UR, NO

SUBJECT: SOVIETS STAND FAST AGAINST SVALBARD FISHERIES PRE-
SERVATION ZONE

1. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE NORWEGIANS HAD SEVERAL DISCUSSIONS
WITH SOVIET FISHERIES MINISTER ISHKOV ON THEIR PROPOSED SVALBARD
FISHERIES PRESERVATION ZONE (FPZ) DURING ISHKIV'S VISIT TO OSLO
EARLIER THIS WEEK. ACCORDING TO OUR MFA SOURCES, THE SOVIETS
SHOWED NO INCLINATION TO MODERATE THEIR STRONG OPPOSITION TO
THE FPZ, ANNOUNCED TO THE GON VIA A STRONGLY-WORDED DIPLOMATIC
NOTE LAST SUMMER (OSLO 3225).

2. THE ADAMANT SOVIET VIEW HAS NOT YET FORCED A SHOWDOWN
SINCE THE NORWEGIANS HAVE NOT PROMULGATED FISHING
OR ENFORCEMENT REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE FPZ. BUT WITH THE
FISHING SEASON IN THE BARENTS SEA BEGINNING IN LATE MARCH,
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THE MFA FEELS SOME URGENCY IN MOVING TO EMPLACE SUCH REGULATIONS.

3. OUR CONTACTS SUGGEST THAT THE GON'S NEXT MOVE IS
LIKELY TO BE TO CONSULT INFORMALLY WITH INTERESTED COUNTRIES
ON NORWAY'S PROPOSED FPZ REGULATIONS. THE GON WOULD THEN
DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT TO AMEND THE PORPOSED REGULATIONS
BASED ON THE RESULTS OF THOSE CONSULTATIONS.

4. SINCE NORWAY'S LOS MINISTER EVENSEN HAS BEEN CHARGED WITH THESE CONSULTATIONS, OUR MFA SOURCES ASSUME THAT THE FPZ WILL BE A MAJOR AGENDA TOPIC FOR EVENSEN'S PLANNED VISIT TO MOSCOW IN MARCH, AGREED TO DURING THE ISHKOV VISIT. THERE IS STILL CONSIDERABLE DOUBT IN THE MFA ABOUT PERSUADING THE SOVIETS TO ACCEPT THE FPZ AS IT STANDS BECAUSE THAT WOULD REPRESENT A CONTRADICTION OF MOSCOW'S VIEWS ON NORWAY'S LEGAL RIGHTS UNDER THE SVALBARD TREATY. YET MFA EXPERTS FEEL THAT THE SOVIETS SHARE NORWAY'S INTEREST A PRAGMATIC MEANS TO CONSERVE FISH RESOURCES IN THE AREA AND NOTE THAT THE RUSSIANS HAVE RESPECTED NEAFC REGULATIONS THERE. ONE POSSIBLE SOLUTION BEING WEIGHED IN THE MFA IS TO CONFORM THE FPZ REGULATIONS WITH NEAFC REGULATIONS, ALLOWING THE SOVIETS A MEANS OF ACCEPTING THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT STEPS WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THEIR LEGAL POSITION.
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